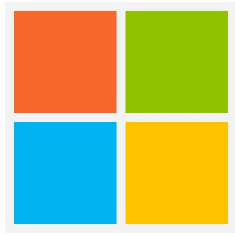


# Windows Sysprep Guide



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This Guide will prepare your Windows devices ready to be captured and deployed with FileWave Network IVS.

Computer Imaging is an important part of Life Cycle Management. Creating and deploying Windows images requires running the System Preparation (Sysprep) tool. Sysprep removes system-specific data from Windows ensuring a successful restoration of the image, and creates a "generalized" Windows installation that will then be ready for configuration at next bootup.

If your organization requires an answer file below is a step-by-step guide on creating an answer file for Sysprep to completely automate the Windows setup.

## Creating a Sysprep unattended answer file

Tested on Windows 7, 8.1, 10 and 11

At this point you can either

- Use the Filewave Answer File Generator
- Use a 3rd party creation tool
- Manually create the answer file
- Skip this and have no answer file or an empty answer file (not recommended)

**i** It is highly recommended generated answer files are used with matching Windows releases, e.g 1909 answer file with Windows 10 1909, etc. If preparing a newer Windows 10 release, e.g. 2004, generate a new matching 2004 answer file.

## Answer File Generator

Tested on Windows 10 1909 and 2004

- Answer File Generator Link: <https://www.windowsafg.com/>
- And alternative AFG tool: <https://schneegans.de/windows/unattend-generator/>

## 3rd Party Tool

The following are example links to online tools that will generate the XML:

- Win 7 - [http://windowsafg.com/win7x86\\_x64.html](http://windowsafg.com/win7x86_x64.html)
- Win 8 - [http://windowsafg.com/win8x86\\_x64.html](http://windowsafg.com/win8x86_x64.html)
- Win 8.1 - [http://windowsafg.com/win8.1x86\\_x64.html](http://windowsafg.com/win8.1x86_x64.html)
- Win 10/11 MBR - [http://windowsafg.com/win10x86\\_x64.html](http://windowsafg.com/win10x86_x64.html)
- Win 10/11 UEFI - [https://www.windowsafg.com/win10x86\\_x64\\_uefi.html](https://www.windowsafg.com/win10x86_x64_uefi.html) Customers have reported unsuccessful image

## Manually

### Installing the Windows Automated Installation Kit for Windows

First we'll need to install the Windows Automated Installation Kit (Win AIK) on your technician machine. Follow the on screen prompts for your Windows AIK version.

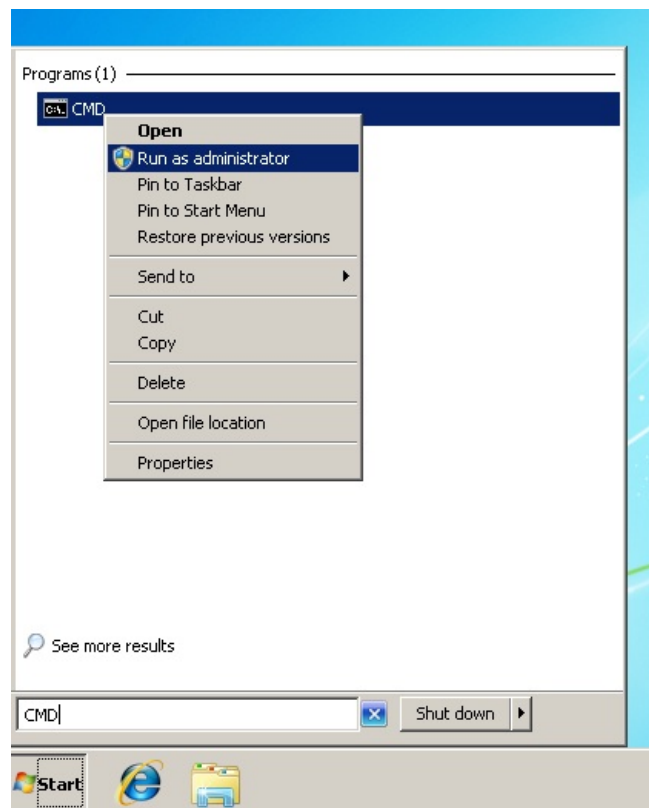
- Win 7 - <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=5753>
- Win 8 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30652>
- Win 8.1 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=39982>
- Win 10/11 - <https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/windows-assessment-deployment-kit>

## Check Disk

Run the Check Disk command before your Sysprep the image. This will ensure the disk is cleared of any errors. The below commands are run in Command Prompt run as administrator.

```
chkdsk /R  
shutdown -r -t 0
```

Use a administrator command prompt to run the commands and reboot



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.14393]
(c) 2016 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>chkdsk /R
The type of the file system is NTFS.
Cannot lock current drive.

Chkdsk cannot run because the volume is in use by another
process. Would you like to schedule this volume to be
checked the next time the system restarts? (Y/N) Y

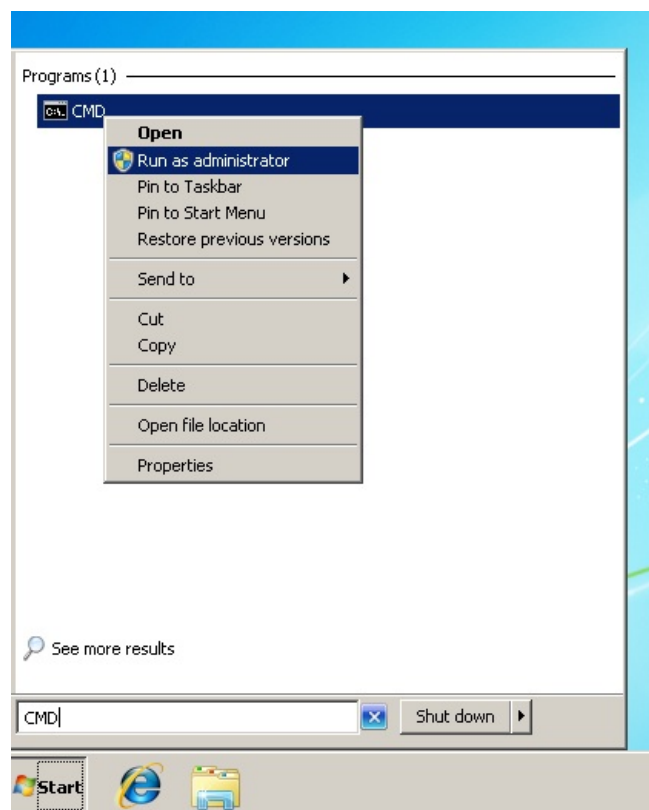
This volume will be checked the next time the system restarts.

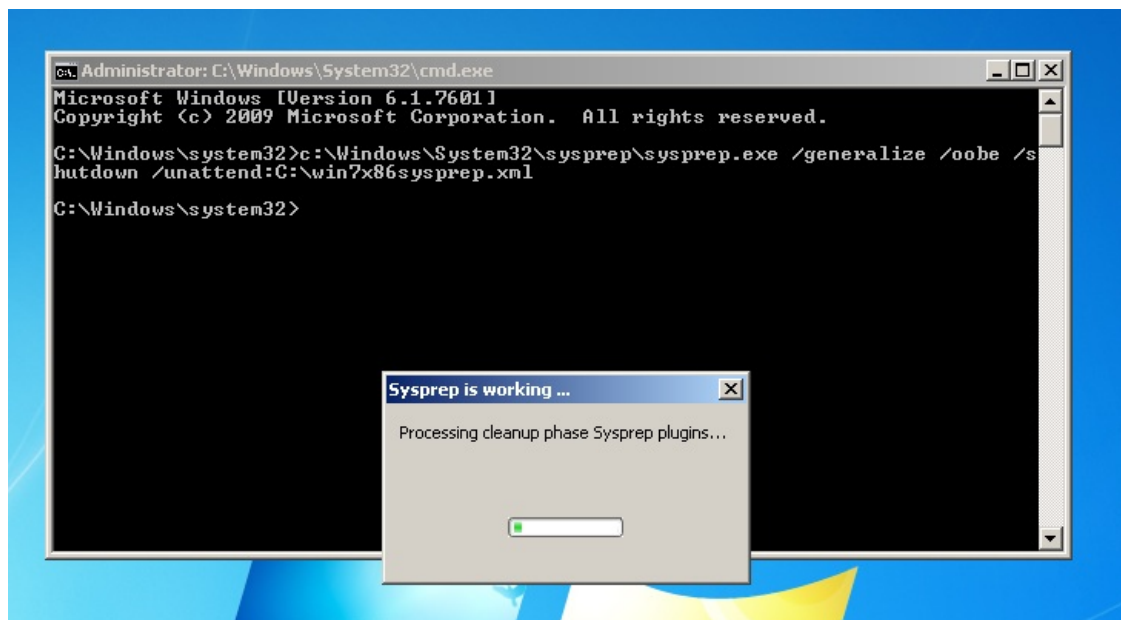
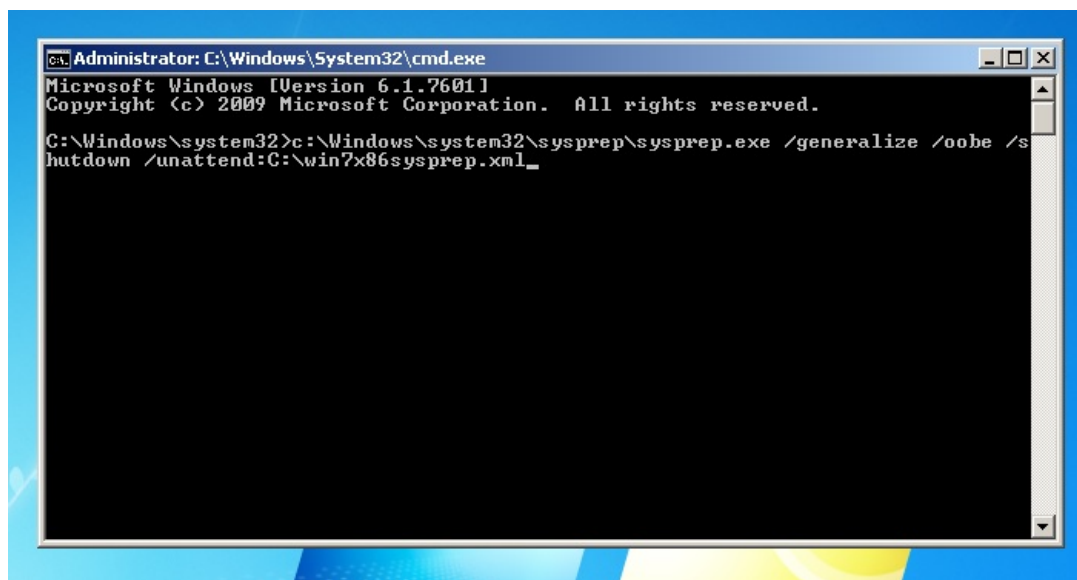
C:\Windows\system32>shutdown -r -t 0
```

## System Prepare with Sysprep

Once Check Disk (`chkdsk`) has completed and the machine is back in Windows, run the command below (if you have no unattend XML file you may use the second command) with Command Prompt as administrator to Sysprep your machine:

```
C:\Windows\System32\Sysprep\sysprep.exe /generalize /oobe /shutdown /unattend:PATH TO SYSPREP ANSWER FILE XML
or
C:\Windows\System32\Sysprep\sysprep.exe /generalize /oobe /shutdown
```





Sysprep will prepare the machine to be copied and shutdown. You are now ready to upload your Master Image to the FileWave Imaging Appliance.

To continue this workflow and capture this as a Master Image see: [Windows Network Imaging - PXE Booting](#)

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